

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 17, 19 and 21 to read as follows:

17. (Twice Amended) A receptacle connector for providing electrical connection between an opposing plug connector with a circuit board, the opposing connector having an insertion end for mating with the receptacle of said connector, comprising:

an insulative housing, the connector housing supporting a plurality of conductive terminals, the connector housing having distinct top and bottom wall portions defining an interior receptacle in which said terminals are supported, the receptacle being sized to receive said plug connector insertion end when said plug connector is mated to said receptacle connector, the housing not having any sidewalls interconnecting the top and bottom wall portions together;

a retainer shield for shielding a portion of said connector housing and for engaging a plurality of exterior surfaces of said plug connector insertion end, the retainer shield including a body portion that is bent to overlie at least three distinct sides of said connector housing, said retainer shield further including at least two retention members formed therewith and projecting into said connector housing interior receptacle, said two retention members being oriented in distinct vertical and horizontal planes so as to exert a retaining force from two different directions on two different surfaces of said plug connector insertion end when inserted into said receptacle, and

an outer shell member extending partially over the retainer shield, the retainer shield being retained in its place upon the housing by the outer shell member.

19. (Amended) The connector of claim 17, wherein the outer shell member is disposed on the exterior of said connector housing, said outer shell member overlying at least four different surfaces of said connector housing and having a front panel portion with an opening formed therein that communicates with said connector housing interior receptacle.

21. (Twice Amended) A connector for providing a connection between an opposing connector and a circuit board, the opposing connector having an elongated insertion end for mating with the connector, said connector comprising:

an insulative housing supporting a plurality of conductive terminals, the connector housing having a body portion with distinct top and bottom wall portions extending therefrom, the connector housing top and bottom portions defining a receptacle therebetween adapted to receive said opposing connector insertion portion therein, said connector housing not having any sidewalls interconnecting said top and bottom wall portions and defining part of said receptacle;

a retainer shield that overlies a portion of said connector housing, the retainer shield being formed from metal blank and having three distinct retention members formed therewith, each of the retention members extending at least partially into said receptacle for engaging an opposing portion of said opposing connector inserted into said receptacle, each of said retention members further extending into said receptacle from three different directions; and,

an outer metal shell having a plurality of different panel portions disposed on some portions of said connector housing in overlying relationship, the shell member having a front face panel that extends vertically between said connector housing top and bottom wall portions, two side panels that extend vertically between said connector top and bottom wall portions, the front face panel having an opening formed therein that communicates with said receptacle, two of said retention members being disposed interiorly of said outer shell side panels and the third of said retention members being disposed interiorly of said outer shell and said connector housing top wall portion, the outer metal shell extending partially over the retainer shield to retain the retainer shield in its place upon the housing.

Remarks

Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested under 37 CFR § 1.116 because it places the application in condition for immediate allowance, or, in the alternative, presents the rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal.

In the Office Action mailed on October 22, 2001, the Examiner rejected claims 1-14 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,086,421 in view of Futatsugi et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,077,120 and Wang, U.S. Patent No. 6,095,869, and rejected claims 17, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Futatsugi et al. in view of Matsunuma et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,993,258 and Wang. The Examiner also rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Futatsugi et al. and Matsunuma et